

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11913 020638Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005370 020642Z /14

R 290612Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9215

S E C R E T TOKYO 11913

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
SUBJECT: COST SHARING

1. WE BELIEVE DIFFICULT DOD DECISIONS IN REGARD TO OKINAWA RIFS CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT ON OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL BUDGET RELIEF AND WE WISH TO OFFER OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CONCERNED IN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS POSSIBLE. KANEMARU'S VISIT, BOTH AS A RESULT OF THIS OUTCOME AS WELL AS FRANK DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING US CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO MEET ASIAN COMMITMENTS, WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. IT WENT FAR BEYOND PROTOCOLARY CHARACTER SUCH VISITS TEND TO ASSUME.

2. AGAINST THIS FAVORABLE BACKDROP, ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT REPORTS RECEIVED BY MOFA ON WATARI'S FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATIONS IN PENTAGON INDICATE DISAPPOINTMENT WAS EXPRESSED AT PROSPECT COST RELIEF MIGHT AMOUNT TO "ONLY" \$100 MILLION AND THAT THIS WOULD NOT PROVIDE GOOD CLIMATE FOR SECDEF VISIT IN FALL. WE WOULD JUDGE, ON BASIS OF CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL PINCKNEY, THAT MOFA REPORT (FROM ITS EMBASSY) MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED AND WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN US VERSION. WE WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, AT RISK OF REPETITION, THAT KANEMARU AND WATARI ARE WELL OUT AHEAD OF REST OF GOJ IN ADVOCATING MAXIMUM POSSIBLE COST-SHARING.

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IN PROCESS OF CONDITIONING POLITICAL AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF SIZEABLE BUDGET, THEY HAVE INCURRED FAIR AMOUNT OF BACKBITING FROM OTHER MINISTRIES. WE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY EXERCISE UTMOST CAUTION LEST WE CREATE IMPRESSION AMONG OUR STAUNCHEST ALLIES THAT THEIR EFFORTS ARE NOT FULLY APPRECIATED.

3. WE WOULD NOTE ALSO IN THIS CONTEXT THAT BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA AND DEFENSE MINISTER KANEMARU SHARE COMMON APPROACH AS SELF-MADE, GRASS-ROOTS, (UNBUREAUCRATIC) POLITICIANS THAT PERSONAL TRUST IS ALL-IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT JAPAN HAS REACHED STAGE WHERE IT WILL RESPOND TO US NEEDS WITHOUT EXCESSIVE PRESSURE. INQUIRIES FROM MOFA AND JDA ABOUT IMPORT OF ALLEGED STATEMENTS ON SUFFICIENCY OF RELIEF INDICATE A SENSITIVE NERVE WAS STRUCK. DEPARTMENT WILL REST ASSURED WE WILL DILIGENTLY PURSUE MAXIMUM COST RELIEF BUT AT THIS STAGE WE SEE ADVANTAGE IN LETTING BUREAUCRATIC WHEELS TURN IN RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC JAPANESE POLITICAL DIRECTION. RIF DECISION, LIKE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION, WILL BE WELL-UNDERSTOOD FACTORS WORKING ON OUR BEHALF.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS DOD. MANSFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COSTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO11913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-0161
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978066/aaaaaept.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61583289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2351881
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COST SHARING
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61583289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014